

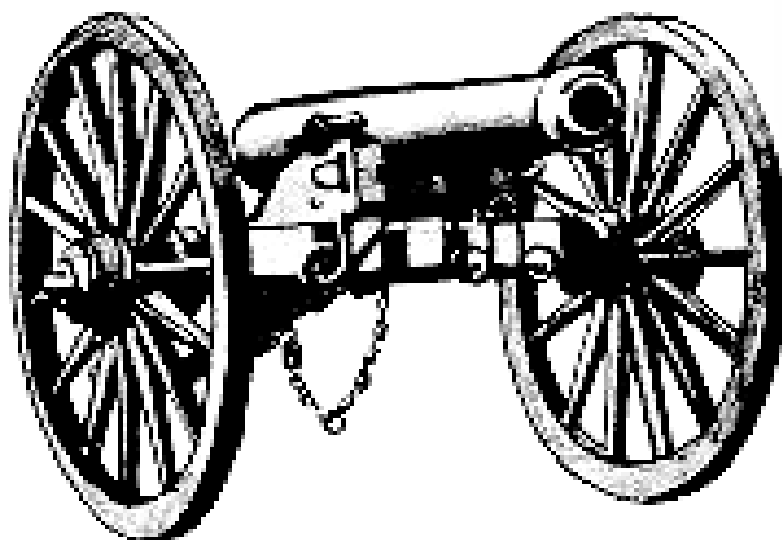
ADJUTANT'S REPORT

By Galen R. Ewing



FORT SCOTT NATIONAL
HISTORIC SITE

From “the Crack Post of the Frontier”



A special thanks to all of you who contributed to the Civil War Encampment. Volunteers took on many tasks that weekend including program presentation, working the Visitor Center, counting visitors, and working behind the scenes in the Magic Room. A special thanks to Dee Young and Brenda Boehm for heading up cooking in the Mess Hall kitchen! This year 90 volunteers contributed 1,508 hours for 547 visitors. Thanks to group volunteers including the Holmes Brigade, 4th Missouri Cavalry, Northwest Arkansas Historical Education Association, and the Western Bluecoats Field Hospital, Inc. I also appreciate all the individual volunteers helping with numerous living historical impressions, visitor center work, and counting visitors.

Our annual park survey is coming up in June. Fort Scott National Historic Site participates in this servicewide program (developed for the Government Performance and Results Act) to measure visitor satisfaction and visitor understanding of the significance of the park they are visiting through a visitor survey card. We lost two of our key players in handing out surveys with Herb and Sandra Haimerl moving to Colorado. Please give me a call if you are willing and able to assist with this important task.

Two special individual and group volunteers were recognized at the regional level. Susan Anderson earned the George Hartzog Youth Volunteer Award and the Nevada High School Advanced History Class earned the George Hartzog Volunteer Youth Group Award. Congratulations to both award winners!!

News from the Bear's Den

By Barak Geertsen

First of all a big thank you to all of you who performed in the Lincoln Assassination Chautauqua that was held as the evening program during our Civil War Encampment. It was a huge success with over 100 people attending the program. We received many positive compliments at your powerful performances. We definitely have some talent in our volunteer ranks.

I also wanted to thank all those volunteers who have helped in anyway with our spring education programs. Nearly 2000 students came to programs this spring. I am especially grateful for the high school students from Nevada and Fort Scott who did such a good job presenting programs to our students in grades K-4. In addition to our regular programs, the site also sponsored a field trip for Eugene Ware's 4th Grade students to go to Topeka on April 10. There they saw the state capitol, Brown vs. Board of Education NHS, and the Ritchie House –an Underground Railroad stop. Two of our volunteers, George and Diane Bernheimer, helped with the presentation at the Ritchie House and were quite compelling in their efforts to bring the story to life. We also had a school from Oklahoma on May 1st who had requested a program about the prairie. Since we don't really have formal education programs about the prairie, the site custom made a program, with the assistance of volunteers Kelley Collins and Rondi Anderson. Those programs combined with a couple of distance learning programs, and a visit from the Kansas School for the Deaf made for a very busy spring.

The rangers are back in their offices after a couple of years or so being set up in the dressing rooms. The new offices are nicely done with a newly varnished wooden floor. We are also playing our movie now in the new auditorium. This means that volunteers will be able to use the dressing rooms for Memorial Day Weekend.

Speaking of Memorial Day weekend, our theme for this year is the experience of soldiers in the 1840s, Bleeding Kansas and the Civil War. I could still use some help with artillery both on Saturday and on Monday, living history stations, and a tableau on Sunday afternoon, so if you are able and willing to help, please contact me as soon as possible at 620-223-0310 or if you prefer email barak_geertsen@nps.gov.

EXAMPLES OF ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CONTRACTING

By Greg Wolcott

President Obama's recent March 19th Executive Order "Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade" updates and expands sustainability goals for the federal government. The three projects below provide examples of how the Midwest Region is already incorporating sustainable acquisition into our practices.

Fort Scott Repair Fire Suppression System in HS-2

This project called for replacing all the pipes, pipe fittings, and sprinkler heads of the fire suppression system in HS-2 to bring the structure into fire code compliance. During solicitation, the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR), Gregory Wolcott, realized we could recycle much of the piping materials being replaced ourselves. The Contract Specialist (CS), James Bissaillon, issued a revised Scope of Work (SOW) for the solicitation that stated the park would provide a trailer for the contractor to place all recyclable materials. This resulted in a lower price for the work and the Park can ensure the materials are recycled appropriately.



SAFETY SENSE

By Galen Ewing

Speaking from experience, allergies seem extremely harsh this year. The following is some safety precautions tips to protect you against allergies...ed.

- Keep a record of your symptoms, and the plants, animals, food or chemicals that trigger the attack of allergies and try to avoid them.
- If your symptoms are related to pollens and dust, keep your house clean and while driving, keep windows up.
- Limit the time you and your pet spend outside when pollen counts are high since pets may bring large amounts of pollen into your home.
- Try to keep your bedroom, kitchen and family room areas clean and dust free.
- Cover your mattress and box springs with dust proof cases and wipe them clean weekly. Avoid using wool or down blankets and feather pillows.
- Wash your bed sheets and pillowcases weekly in hot water.
- Consider using air purifier with HEPA filter in your home.
- Get your chimney and furnace checked before starting fireplaces and gas heaters.
- Keep your house well ventilated and dry. If the symptoms of allergies persist throughout the year they may be related to molds or mildews. Keep the humidity below 50 percent and use a dehumidifier during humid weather.
- If you suffer from asthma, check with your doctor about taking aspirin, Ibuprofen and similar pain medication since they can trigger an asthmatic attack.
- Reduce your risk of cold and flu by washing your hands often and getting a flu shot each year.
- Clean your humidifier frequently.
- Exercise regularly. Water aerobics may be a good choice because the moist air is less likely to trigger an attack. Avoid strenuous exercises since they might precipitate an asthmatic attack.
- Take care of your heart. Get a periodic check-up because if you have a lung problem it is important to keep your heart as healthy as possible.
- Use HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Arrestor) air purifier, a HEPA vacuum and mite proof mattress and pillow covers.

The Trumpeter

By Sam Young, Fort Scott NHS Volunteer

Part 2 continued from the last newsletter – ed.

What did each call mean? Here are some of the daily calls (these are the standardized calls created after the Civil War that people are familiar with today – prior to the standardization, not only did artillery, cavalry, and infantry have their own unique calls, so did many regiments which led to much confusion):

FIRST CALL: Played to assemble trumpeters for reveille; the first call of the day. It was sounded between 4:45 AM and 6:00 AM depending on the season of the year. First Call was also played to assemble trumpeters for the playing of Guard Mount, Drill, Retreat, and Tattoo.

REVEILLE: Immediately following this call the flag was raised, the cannon fired a single blank round, and the soldiers began to assemble for morning roll call.

ASSEMBLY: This call was for all soldiers to be in formation. This call was also played for soldiers to be in formation for Guard Mount, Drill, Retreat, and Tattoo.

STABLE CALL: Livestock were groomed and fed, and stables were cleaned with fresh hay distributed.

MESS CALL: Breakfast, Dinner (the main meal of the day), and Supper

SICK CALL: Ill soldiers reported to the hospital for treatment.

FATIGUE CALL: Soldiers assigned to work details reported for duty.

GUARD MOUNT: Soldiers assigned guard duty reported for duty in front of their barracks.

ADJUTANT'S CALL: Soldiers assigned to guard duty were marched to the Guard House for the Guard Mount ceremony. Adjutant's Call was also played for Retreat when soldiers marched to the Parade Ground.

WATER CALL: Livestock were watered.

DRILL CALL: Ordered soldiers to dismounted training such as marching.

CLASS CALL: Ordered soldiers to classroom training where such training occurred.

RECALL: Recalled soldiers from drill and fatigue details.

FIRST SERGEANT'S CALL: Company first sergeants reported to post headquarters with their "Morning Reports" (contained such information as soldiers present for duty or absent and for what reason).

BOOTS AND SADDLES: Mounted drill for cavalymen

RETREAT: Flag lowering preparation

TO THE COLORS: Preceded with firing a blank round from the cannon, then lowering the flag while this call was played by massed trumpeters when more than one company and the regimental headquarters were present, or a single trumpeter when only a company was present.

TATTOO: Soldiers were to prepare for bed and the military post was secured for the night following the last roll call of soldiers for the day.

TAPS: Lights out, soldiers in bed, and no loud talking

If required, TO ARMS was for soldiers to assemble under arms, TO HORSE was for cavalymen to assemble with arms and horses, FIRE CALL was for soldiers to assemble to fight a fire, and OFFICER'S CALL was for officers to report as a group to their commander.

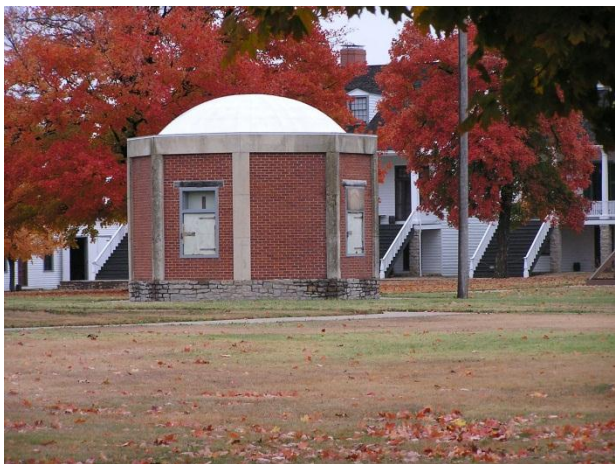
Cavalry horses were highly trained and knew the bugle calls. They could perform the actions announced without the riders on them. A trumpeter in Company B Fifth U.S. Cavalry frequently demonstrated this. He and another cavalryman would release the company's horses from the picket line and, using bugle calls, send the horses to the river for watering. When he played Recall the horses left the river and lined up in formation. Using bugle calls, he placed them into a column of fours and marched them back to the picket line.

While sounding bugle calls was a trumpeter's primary duty, he also had to be proficient in the use of revolver, carbine, and saber. However, he normally would be armed only with a revolver as the carbine, attached to a shoulder sling, would get in the way when he was sounding bugle calls while mounted.

If you never lived in an environment where bugle calls dictated your daily activities, you missed a very unique experience. Just look at the above list of bugle calls that were played every day and envision living that life for a day, a week, a month, or even a year. A soldier's enlistment was for five years – five years of bugle calls!

Not Just Another Brick in the Wall: Fort Scott's Powder Magazine

By Barak Geertsen



Recently a visitor asked me about the powder magazine at the site. He thought it odd that it was the only brick building in the park. He wondered why limestone wasn't used for the powder magazine. I did not have an answer for him, so I went hunting.

The simple answer is that brick is more resistant to fire than limestone. Limestone crumbles in high heat. Brick can withstand temperatures up to 1300 degrees without being compromised. Brick was also used in the firewalls built between the two halves of each officers' quarters. When fire struck Officers' Quarters No. 4 in 1945, one half of the building was destroyed. The 1840s firewall likely was

responsible for the minimal damage received by the other half of the building.

Considering the other measures taken to protect the magazine (thick walls and a lightning rod), it made sense for it to be the only building lined with brick. These measures would have helped keep safe the stores of explosives in the structure. As an added measure, a sentry was also posted at the powder magazine continuously to assure its security.

Erwin Thompson's Historic Structures Report (1968) has the following to say about the powder magazine:

The appearance of Fort Scott's magazine indicates clearly that Captain Swords borrowed the concept of its design from the magazine at Fort Leavenworth. Photographs of the two illustrate the striking similarity between them.

By October 1843, Swords had built the stone foundation for the structure; and a year later he said that the "fire and ball proof magazine has been finished except for the tinning of the roof. (Ball proof means that it was impenetrable by bullet). Captain Graham, the post commander, wrote that the walls of the octagonal building were made of brick. He also referred to the "laying of the floor," but did not disclose the kind of material (stone, brick, wood, etc.) that would compose the floor.

When the Adjutant General, Roger Jones, learned about the cost of constructing Fort Scott and the cost of the magazine in particular, he wrote the department commander, Col. S. W. Kearny, asking, "Does not this report show that the

buildings being erected are too costly -- and more permanent, perhaps, than necessary? Why, for example, build the magazine with brick and cover it with tin? (Brick was more costly than limestone. Limestone was quarried locally; brick (at that time) had to be purchased elsewhere)

It was a pertinent question, for Fort Scott could not foresee any chance of its being attacked by hostiles. But the thick walls of the magazine had already been built. Swords reported in 1845 that the magazine was finished.

Although it was a handsome structure having a white domed roof and giving the appearance of being as solid as Gibraltar, the Army could not foresee much civilian use for the building. The 1855 sale advertisement listed the magazine simply by name, without any description.

Auction records show that the magazine was sold for 50.00 to a T.S. Dodge. The army again rented the building during the Civil War, but in 1868, the magazine was torn down. The local newspaper editor regretted the loss saying that “the magazine...has been torn down and the material used in other buildings. It may have been more profitable to do this, but we cannot help thinking such things should be left to remind the pioneer of old scenes.” Such lament even in 1868!

MEMORIAL DAY SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 23

- 10:00 a.m. Thunder Wagon: Artillery Demonstration
- 11:00 a.m. Bucket Brigade-Soldiers as Firefighters
- 12:00 p.m. Timeline of the American Soldier
- 1:00 p.m. Guided Tour
- 2:00 p.m. Thunder Wagon: Artillery Demonstration
- 3:00 p.m. Timeline of the American Soldier
- 3:30 p.m. Honoring Fort Scott's Fallen Officers
- 4:00 p.m. Flag Retreat

Sunday, May 24

- 11:00 a.m. Military Posse: 1850s Weapons Demonstrations
- 12:00 p.m. I Can Fire A Pistol-Interpretive Program
- 1:00 p.m. Guided Tour
- 2:00 p.m. Montgomery's Raids-Interpretive Program
- 3:00 p.m. An Army Soon to Be Divided: Bleeding Kansas Tableau
- 4:00 p.m. Flag Retreat

Monday, May 25

- 10:00 a.m. A Most Diverse Army: African American and American Indian Soldiers in the Civil War
- 11:00 a.m. Bullpup: Artillery Demonstration
- 12:00 p.m. Spirituous Liquors: Alcoholism and the Civil War Army
- 1:00 p.m. Guided Tour
- 2:00 p.m. Bullpup: Artillery Demonstration
- 2:30 p.m. These Honored Dead: Fallen Kansas Soldiers in the Civil War.
- 3:00 p.m. Moment of Silence
- 4:00 p.m. Flag Retreat

GOOD OL' DAYS JUNE 6, 2015

Outdoor recreation is the theme for this year's Good Ol' Days. As you can see from our blurb in the Good Ol' Days brochure below, Fort Scott National Historic Site will host a fun day of activities for this Special Event! Whether you participate in Cherokee Indian Games, witness the 1800s Victorian Era Fashion Show, or have fun with Victorian Dancing, please join us on Saturday, June 6 from 10 am – 4 pm. If you would like to volunteer to help count visitors or serve in other support functions or if you have another way you can contribute to the program, please call Galen at 620-223-0310.

Stroll the grounds as Fort Scott National Historic Site features programs and events focusing on 19th century outdoor activities. Come learn about the history of hunting the buffalo. View a collection of historic hunting rifles. Take part in traditional Indian Games hosted by the Cherokee Heritage Center. Give it a go and shake a leg with traditional outdoor Victorian Dancing. Enjoy learning an ancient skill during a Youth Archery Instruction Session for those ages 6 and above.

- 10:30 AM – Youth Archery Instruction Session
- 11:30 AM – Traditional Cherokee Indian Games
- 12:30 PM – “Putting on the Dog” - 1800s Victorian Era Fashion Show
- 1:30 PM – “Belle of the Ball” - Traditional Victorian Dancing Program
- 2:30 PM – Traditional Cherokee Indian Games
- 3:30 PM – Youth Archery Instruction Session

So come to Good Ol' Days and discover the many fun possibilities of 19th Century outdoor recreation at Fort Scott National Historic Site.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

